

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 02143 071405Z

53

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2932

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 2143

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, YE, JO

SUBJ: JORDANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR

DEPT PASS SECDEF FOR ISA

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR

REF: (1) AMMAN 5876

(2) AMMAN 5213

(3) AMMAN 5189

(4) AMMAN 5149

1. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HAIDAR MUSTAFA RETURNED TO SANAA LAST WEEK AFTER SPENDING ALMOST A MONTH IN JIDDA (PURCHASING FURNISHINGS FOR OFFICE AND RESIDENCE). FOLLOWING RETURN HE CONVEYED TO YARG, IN SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH THE THREE KEY MILITARY COMMANDERS, LIST OF WHAT GOJ PREPARED TO DO FOR YEMEN IN TERMS OF MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (A) ON GRANT BASIS AND (B) IF REIMBURSED. AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA GAVE MILITARY LEADERS DATES OF VARIOUS TRAINING COURSES IN JORDAN (PARA 6 AMMAN 5213) IN WHICH YEMENI OFFICERS AND NCOS INVITED PARTICIPATE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANAA 02143 071405Z

2. AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA REPORTS YEMENIS VERY PLEASED AT WHAT GOJ PREPARED TO DO. FURTHER JOINT MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED BETWEEN MUSTAFA AND THE THREE COMMANDERS TO GO OVER DETAILS. MUSTAFA HAS ALSO SOUGHT APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER.

3. IN ALL CONVERSATIONS, JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HAS STRESSED THAT JORDAN IS POOR AND CAN DO ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT ON ITS OWN. THE YAR HAS RICH FRIENDS, SAUDI ARABIA AND ABU DHABI, TO WHOM IT MUST ITSELF TURN FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IF JORDAN IS TO BE ENABLED CARRY THROUGH WITH FULL PROGRAM BEING OFFERED.

4. WE HAVE MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA OUR CONCERN OVER INDICATIONS (PARA 3 AMMAN 5876) THAT GOJ MIGHT BE THINKING BEST WAY TO HANDLE YARG'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS WOULD BE THROUGH PROVISION OF OBSOLESCE SAUDI WEAPONS. WE STATED THAT FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH YEMENI MILITARY LEADERS WE AWARE THAT RELIANCE ON SAUDI CASTOFFS IS PRECISELY WHAT THEY DON'T WANT. THEY SAY THEY HAVE HAD ALTOGETHER TOO MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH THE INFERIOR CONDITION OF WEAPONS SO RECEIVED IN PAST AND RESENT THE WAY SAG HAS RELEASED ITS LARGESSE IN Demean- INLR DBIBLETS AFTER YEMENIS FIGURATIVELY FORCED TO GO ON BENDED KNEE. MUSTAFA AGREED, NOTING SAUDI MAINTENANCE OF ITS OWN FIRST-LINE EQUIPMENT IS NOT GOOD; MUCH OF WHATEVER MIGHT BE RELEASED TO YEMEN LIKELY BE SUBSTANDARD. WE CONCURRED THAT WHILE RE-EQUIPMENT OF YEMENI ARMED FORCES SHOULD BE KEPT MODEST AND IN PACE WITH TRAINING, SUPPLY THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNEL SHOULD BE GOOD EQUIPMENT INTENDED FROM OUTSET FOR CONSIGNMENT TO YARG. YEMENI FORCES HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT STARTING REHABILITATION EFFORTS WITH DEFICIENT EQUIPMENT.

5. COMMENT: IT IS HELPFUL TO US THAT GOJ ABLE CONVEY ITS OFFER TO YARG JUST AT THIS TIME. SINCE YEMENIS GIVE USG A LOT OF THE CREDIT FOR BRINGING JORDANIANS INTO THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PICTURE, IT HELPS OFFSET ANTI-US SENTIMENTS ENGENDERED BY MIDDLE EAST WAR. IT REMINDS ESPECIALLY YEMEN'S MILITARY LEADERS THAT THEY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANAA 02143 071405Z

HAVE A PARTICULAR MILITARY PROBLEM IN WHICH THE US, NOT USSR, IS MOST LIKELY BE ABLE ASSIST.

6. AS SOON AS SITUATION IN AREA HAS SOMEWHAT CALMED, WE INTEND GET BACK TO YARG ON QUESTION OF ABU DHABI FINANCING FOR ARMS WHICH USG HAD EARLIER INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO SELL. WE IMAGINE THESE WILL BE OF EVEN GREATER INTEREST TO YARG NOW THAT PROSPECTS OF ANY

SUBSTANTIAL DELIVERY OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT FROM EGYPT,
FINANCED BY SAG, MADE REMOTE BY MIDDLE EAST WAR.
CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND USCINCEUR.

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